

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1, 37, 42-44 and 61-63 have been canceled without prejudice. New Claims 64-100 have been submitted.

Claims 1-63 (canceled).

The following New Claims are being submitted:

64. (New) A method of coating a stent, the stent including a network of structural elements, comprising:

(a) positioning a coating material dispenser next to or in contact with a structural element of the stent;

(b) causing the dispenser to move along a path defined by a pattern of the structural element to apply a coating material on the structural element.

65. (New) The method of Claim 64, wherein the dispenser avoids application of the coating material into openings between the structural elements.

66. (New) The method of Claim 64, wherein the coating material is applied to an outer surface of the structural element such that the dispenser is configured to avoid or minimize application of the coating material on surfaces of sidewalls of the structural element.

67. (New) The method of Claim 64, wherein a diameter of an opening of the dispenser is smaller in measurement than the width of the structural element.

68. (New) The method of Claim 64, wherein the stent is maintained in a stationary position during the application of the coating material.

69. (New) The method of Claim 64, wherein the stent is moved in concert with the dispenser for maintaining the positioning of the dispenser along the path.

70. (New) The method of Claim 64, wherein causing the dispenser to move along the path defined by the pattern of the structural element comprises:

- (a) making the dispenser move while maintaining the stent in a stationary position;
- (b) making the stent move while maintaining the dispenser in a stationary position; or
- (b) making both the stent and the dispenser move during the application of the coating material.

71. (New) The method of Claim 64, where the coating material is selected from a group of polymers, therapeutic agents, or mixtures thereof.

72. (New) The method of Claim 64, additionally including applying heat to the coating material as the coating material is deposited onto the structural element.

73. (New) The method of Claim 64, wherein the path of the movement of the dispenser is a non-linear path.

74. (New) The method of Claim 64, wherein the dispenser is at an angle of less than 90 degrees to a surface of the structural element on which the coating material is being deposited.

75. (New) The method of Claim 64, additionally including adjusting the flow rate of the coating material out from the dispenser so as to prevent or minimize any overflow of the coating material off of an outer surface of the structural element.

76. (New) The method of Claim 64, wherein the dispenser and/or the stent move at a speed that prevents or minimizes overflow of the coating material off of an outer surface of the structural element.

77. (New) The method of Claim 64, wherein the dispenser is capable of moving in intervals of less than 0.1 inches.

78. (New) The method of Claim 64, wherein the dispenser is capable of moving in intervals of less than 0.001 inches.

79. (New) The method of Claim 64, further comprising rotating the stent during the coating process.

80. (New) The method of Claim 64, wherein the dispenser comprises a microinjector or ink-injector type device.

81. (New) The method of Claim 64, wherein the dispenser is capable of depositing about 2 nL to about 70 nL of coating material onto a structural element.

82. (New) A method of coating a stent, the stent including a network of structural elements, comprising:

(a) positioning a coating material dispenser next to or in contact with a structural element of the stent;

(b) causing the stent to move while maintaining the dispenser in a position along a path defined by a pattern of the structural element to apply a coating material on the structural elements.

83. (New) The method of Claim 82, wherein the dispenser avoids application of the coating material into openings between the structural elements.

84. (New) The method of Claim 82, wherein the coating material is applied to an outer surface of the structural element such that the dispenser is configured to avoid or minimize application of the coating material on surfaces of sidewalls of the structural element.

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Cont 85. (New) The method of Claim 82, wherein the dispenser is held in a stationary position.

86. (New) The method of Claim 82, wherein the dispenser is capable of moving about the circumference of the stent.

87. (New) The method of Claim 82, wherein the dispenser is capable of moving in concert with the stent.

88. (New) The method of Claim 82, where the coating material is selected from a group of polymers, therapeutic agents, or a mixture thereof.

89. (New) The method of Claim 82, additionally including applying heat to the coating material as the coating material is deposited onto the structural element.

90. (New) The method of Claim 82, wherein the path is a non-linear path.

91. (New) The method of Claim 82, wherein the dispenser is at an angle of less than 90 degrees to a surface of the structural element on which the coating material is being deposited.

92. (New) The method of Claim 82, additionally including adjusting the flow rate of the coating material out from the dispenser so as to prevent or minimize any overflow of the coating material off of an outer surface of the structural element.

93. (New) The method of Claim 82, wherein the stent moves at a speed that prevents or minimizes overflow of the coating material off of an outer surface of the structural element.

94. (New) The method of Claim 82, wherein the stent is capable of moving in intervals of less than 0.1 inches.

95. (New) The method of Claim 82, wherein the stent is capable of moving in intervals of less than 0.001 inches.

B' 96. (New) The method of Claim 82, wherein the diameter of an opening of the dispenser is smaller in size than the width of the structural element.

Cond 97. A method of coating a stent including a strut, the method comprising:
positioning an opening of a nozzle adjacent to or in contact with an outer surface the strut,
the opening having a diameter smaller than a width of the strut; and
applying a coating material from the nozzle to the strut.

98. The method of Claim 97, wherein the nozzle comprises a microinjector or an ink-jet printhead.

99. The method of Claim 97, wherein the nozzle is capable of depositing about 2 nL to about 70 nL of coating material onto the strut.

100. A method of Claim 97, wherein a width of the strut is greater than a width of the coating formed on the strut.

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